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The fundamental objection to this book for the purpose set forth is that Part I consists of some all too condensed abstract talk *about* the law. It might and should be a study of living cases. It is like a lecture on the paintings and sculpture of a gallery without any illustrative pictures. Even in a short law course for engineering students much more might be done by the first hand use of cases involving the leading principles of those branches of the law with which the engineer should be familiar. Even such illustrative material as the author uses in discussing deeds and negotiable instruments does something to give life to this otherwise dry material of Part I. For the most part the author discusses no cases and cites no authorities, even for his quotations. Part I might serve as a printed outline for a course of lectures, but law lectures are out of date and should not be resorted to even to teach engineers a little law.

Chapter XII consists of good advice, from the legal side, to engineers and engineering contractors, and Part II is quite free from the criticism against Part I. It consists of matter that should be prepared by an engineer out of his experience, and it has been wisely selected. It covers such topics as advertisement, bidding proposals, and forms for contracts, bonds and specifications. These forms are largely standard, including the uniform agreement form copyrighted by the American Railway Engineering Association and the Standard Contract Form of the American Institute of Architects, also copyrighted. They are carefully worked out from engineering experience and are very valuable. For the sake of the matter in Part II any engineer might well provide himself with this book, and it might be of even more value to the lawyer having clients who employ or who are engineering contractors.

E. C. GODDARD.

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AMERICAN CITY PROGRESS AND THE LAW, (The Hewitt Lectures, 1917). By Howard Lee McBain. Columbia University Press, New York: 1918; pp. viii, 269.

In no branch of law has there been in recent years more fundamental change than in the law of municipal corporations. There is a marked tendency to depart from many well-established principles. There is being rapidly relinquished the most characteristic feature of English and American local government—the responsibility of local officials to the locality alone. Obversely, each year sees greater legislative power granted to the municipalities. On the one hand, there is a continuous development of central control over the local officials by the state executive, and on the other, there is a constant relaxation of the limitation on local powers hitherto exerted by the state legislature.

Such radical changes necessitate the reconsideration of a number of judicial doctrines. In particular, the rule that municipal powers must be enumerated has been broadly speaking reversed in the states providing for municipal home-rule. It is now the restrictions, not the powers, that must be enumerated. Again, the doctrine of strict construction is yielding before

the popular and legislative demand for freedom for the city to undertake its imperative tasks.

Before assaults of this kind on their established rules, the courts do not always yield easily. Some have gone a long way, some but a short way, toward the reversal of accepted principles of judicial construction. The result is that our various state systems of municipal law are today a bewildering maze.

On the extent of the changes effected and on their tendencies, the author has thrown a flood of light. Even to their proper evaluation he has furnished much aid, though the intention to do so is disclaimed. The book treats, of course, only of changes. It is not an attempt at an exposition of municipal law. After speaking of the broader aspects of these changes, the author takes up specific topics for fairly full discussion,—such as zoning, excess condemnation, municipal ownership, and control of smoke, billboards, living costs, commerce and industry.

ROBERT T. CRANE.

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GUIDE TO THE LAW AND LEGAL LITERATURE OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND CHILE,  
by Edward M. Borchard, Professor of Law, Yale University, Former Law Librarian, Library of Congress (1911-1916), Washington; Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, 1917; pp. 523.

This book has all the virtues of the preceding volumes of the series of guides edited by Professor Borchard or under his supervision. Previous volumes of the series have been reviewed in 10 MICH. L. REV. 666 and in 14 MICH. L. REV. 700. The work is the result of the editor's long study in the Library of Congress and in the libraries of Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago de Chile. It is a model of bibliographical completeness and excellence.

Dalmacio Velez Sarsfield who drew up the Civil Code of Argentine used as a basis the Brazilian Civil Code of Augusto Teixeira de Freitas. [Cf. the review of the Argentine Code in 16 MICH. L. REV. 469.] Andres Belle in Chile used the same original sources as did the codifiers of the neighboring states. The consequence is that the codified laws of these three countries have a literary unity that makes easy their treatment in a single volume and the close proximity of the three countries and their constant dealings with each other have tended toward a further unification of their laws. This guide will be of great assistance both to the student of comparative law and jurisprudence and to the practical business man or lawyer who may deal with either of the three countries. The Spanish Glossary of this volume is somewhat fuller than that of the Guide to the Law of Spain, referred to above, and this volume also contains a Portuguese Glossary for those dealing with Brazil. The book may be obtained of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for one dollar.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.